

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended): ~~The mat according to claim 11,~~ A fluid absorbent mat having a single fabric layer defining the upper exterior of the mat and a rubber backing bonded to the single the fabric layer, wherein the single fabric layer consists essentially of a knitted polyester fabric having a textured surface that includes raised and/or recessed surface formations and wherein the single fabric layer is adapted to retain fluid therein, wherein the surface formations define a plurality of raised portions and depressed portions disposed in cooperating relation across the mat such that fluid may be collected at said depressed portions, and wherein the average difference in height between the raised portions and the depressed portions is about 0.1-2.0mm.

13. (Currently Amended): ~~The mat according to claim 11,~~ A fluid absorbent mat having a single fabric layer defining the upper exterior of the mat and a rubber backing bonded to the single the fabric layer, wherein the single fabric layer consists essentially of a knitted polyester fabric having a textured surface that includes raised and/or recessed surface formations and wherein the single fabric layer is adapted to retain fluid therein, wherein the individual surface formations have an average surface area of 0.2-100mm².

Claim 14 (Canceled)

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

15. (Currently Amended): ~~The mat according to claim 11,~~ A fluid absorbent mat having a single fabric layer defining the upper exterior of the mat and a rubber backing bonded to the single the fabric layer, wherein the single fabric layer consists essentially of a knitted polyester fabric having a textured surface that includes raised and/or recessed surface formations and wherein the single fabric layer is adapted to retain fluid therein, wherein the surface formations are formed by underlying raised and/or recessed surfaces on the face of the rubber backing that is bonded to the single fabric layer.

Claims 16-81 (Canceled)

82. (New): The mat according to claim 12, wherein the fabric layer is knitted polyester fabric including microdenier yarns comprising filaments less than 1.1 denier.

83. (New): The mat according to claim 12, wherein the knitted polyester fabric is a warp-knitted plush polyester fabric.

84. (New): The mat according to claim 12, wherein the fabric includes a pile yarn and a ground yarn.

85. (New): The mat according to claim 84, wherein the pile yarn is a micro-denier yarn comprising filaments of less than or equal to 1.1 denier.

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

86. (New): The mat according to claim 84, wherein the ground yarn is a monofilament of no less than 10 denier.

87. (New): The mat according to claim 12, wherein the single fabric layer has an upper surface, wherein said upper surface is a sanded surface.

88. (New): The mat according to claim 12, wherein the fabric is chemically treated to render it hydrophilic.

89. (New): The mat according to claim 88, wherein the fabric is chemically treated with an anionic-ethoxylated sulfonated polyester and a high molecular weight ethoxylated polyester.

90. (New): The mat according to claim 12, wherein the rubber backing has a thickness of 0.5-5mm.

91. (New): The mat according to claim 12, wherein said mat is at least one of a drip mat, poster mat, floor mat, place mat, coaster, stair riser, carpet tile, and taxi mat.

92. (New): The mat according to claim 12, wherein the mat is an advertising floor mat.

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

93. (New): The mat according to claim 13, wherein the fabric layer is knitted polyester fabric including microdenier yarns comprising filaments less than 1.1 denier.

94. (New.): The mat according to claim 13, wherein the knitted polyester fabric is a warp-knitted plush polyester fabric.

95. (New): The mat according to claim 13, wherein the fabric includes a pile yarn and a ground yarn.

96. (New): The mat according to claim 95, wherein the pile yarn is a micro-denier yarn comprising filaments of less than or equal to 1.1 denier.

97. (New): The mat according to claim 95, wherein the ground yarn is a monofilament of no less than 10 denier.

98. (New): The mat according to claim 13, wherein the single fabric layer has an upper surface, wherein said upper surface is a sanded surface.

99. (New): The mat according to claim 13, wherein the fabric is chemically treated to render it hydrophilic.

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

100. (New): The mat according to claim 99, wherein the fabric is chemically treated with an anionic-ethoxylated sulfonated polyester and a high molecular weight ethoxylated polyester.

101. (New): The mat according to claim 13, wherein the rubber backing has a thickness of 0.5-5mm.

102. (New): The mat according to claim 13, wherein said mat is at least one of a drip mat, poster mat, floor mat, place mat, coaster, stair riser, carpet tile, and taxi mat.

103. (New): The mat according to claim 13, wherein the mat is an advertising floor mat.

104. (New): The mat according to claim 15, wherein the fabric layer is knitted polyester fabric including microdenier yarns comprising filaments less than 1.1 denier.

105. (New): The mat according to claim 15, wherein the knitted polyester fabric is a warp-knitted plush polyester fabric.

106. (New): The mat according to claim 15, wherein the fabric includes a pile yarn and a ground yarn.

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

107. (New): The mat according to claim 106, wherein the pile yarn is a micro-denier yarn comprising filaments of less than or equal to 1.1 denier.

108. (New): The mat according to claim 106, wherein the ground yarn is a monofilament of no less than 10 denier.

109. (New): The mat according to claim 15, wherein the single fabric layer has an upper surface, wherein said upper surface is a sanded surface.

110. (New): The mat according to claim 15, wherein the fabric is chemically treated to render it hydrophilic.

111. (New): The mat according to claim 110, wherein the fabric is chemically treated with an anionic-ethoxylated sulfonated polyester and a high molecular weight ethoxylated polyester.

112. (New): The mat according to claim 15, wherein the rubber backing has a thickness of 0.5-5mm.

113. (New): The mat according to claim 15, wherein said mat is at least one of a drip mat, poster mat, floor mat, place mat, coaster, stair riser, carpet tile, and taxi mat.

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

114. (New): The mat according to claim 15, wherein the mat is an advertising floor mat.